

# FIRST NEWS



Your Weekly News from  
**First Presbyterian Church**  
St. Petersburg

**November 27, 2020**

## WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY

Join us for our 10 AM Worship Service  
In-Person and Online  
this Sunday, November 29  
First Sunday of Advent

This Sunday's Sermon: "Keep Awake"  
Rev. Ruth Elswood

Scripture: [Isaiah 64:1-9](#), [1 Corinthians 1:3-9](#), [Mark 13:24-37](#)

*As a reminder, we will begin the organ prelude just before 10 AM, so whether you plan to attend in person or online, please join us a few minutes early! When the organ music starts, please observe respectful quiet as those around you use the time for prayer and preparation for worship.*

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### Watch The Service Online

Persons who are at high risk and feel uncomfortable coming back to worship in person are encouraged to take their own risk assessment and stay home if they feel uncomfortable. Those individuals can continue to enjoy our vibrant online worship service.

Click [HERE](#) to watch the service online. This link may also be found on the home page of the church's website ([www.fpcstpete.com](http://www.fpcstpete.com) - "Click Here to Watch Sunday Services") as well as on the church's Facebook page.

### Attend In-Person Worship In The Sanctuary

If you attend in person, please remember:

You will need to reserve a spot to attend. There are two ways to register:

(1) **Go online!** An email will be sent to you each Monday morning with a link to click to RSVP for the upcoming Sunday. You will also find a RSVP button on the main page of our website, or you can go directly to [fpcstpete.com/rsvpforsunday](http://fpcstpete.com/rsvpforsunday). Please complete ALL boxes, then click "Submit to RSVP" **OR**

(2) **Call the Church Office (727-822-2031)** Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and noon (*please note that the office is closed today for the Thanksgiving holiday*). You will be asked a series of questions; some will be health-related. All information collected will be kept confidential. No reservations will be accepted after Friday at noon, and voicemail messages are not RSVPs. If you aren't able to RSVP, we are accepting walk-ins on Sunday morning as space is available.

- **Remember: You will be required to wear a mask.** If you forget one, we will have extras available.
- Hand sanitizer will be available in several easy-to-access spots for your safety.
- Please note that the elevator will **NOT** be accessible.
- The sanctuary will have **one entrance and one exit only**. Signs will point you in the right direction.
- For your safety, prior to service, you will check in at the front doors, and be seated by ushers at a safe social distance.
- We ask that you do not congregate in the sanctuary at all after the service. If you wish to stop and visit with friends, make your way out of the sanctuary first and visit outside. We want you to spend as little time inside the sanctuary as possible.

Thank you in advance for your patience with these new procedures. We look forward to meeting for in-person worship while maintaining the safest environment possible!



**Please remember in prayer:** Carol Abernathy, Ron & Millie Bradley, Bob Burkhardt, Carol Daniel, Joan Evans, Julie Evans, Sandra Fay, Teresa Gasper, Ron Hall, John & Dorothy Harte, Larry & Diane Heath, Jim & Iberia Johnston, Anne Justiss, Glenice Kelley, Margie Laughlin, Dave & Pam Malone, Nancy McLaughlin, Howard Moser, Eleanor Nicholas, Peter Pav, Alan Pfleider, Richard Pfleider, Janet Poling, Jane Pruitt, Jean Schultz, Judy Smith, Hildegard & Will Sondermann.

Please keep in prayer all those who have been physically, emotionally, and financially affected by the coronavirus, and join us in praying for an end to this situation.

**Please pray for our family and friends serving in the military:** Marc-Antoni Julia', USN LT; CPT. Taina Specie, USA; 1st LT. Liam Shelton, USA; 1st LT. Mallory Wasik, USMC; CPT. Robert Wilson, USAF. *Please provide us with mailing addresses for our card ministry.*

Thank you for choosing to use your time to give this important gift of prayer to our church family. *The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.* - James 5:16

If you have any additions, deletions, or updates to the weekly prayer concerns, please contact Amy Grossenbacher at [amyg@fpc-stpete.org](mailto:amyg@fpc-stpete.org).

## Welcome Our New Associate Pastor Rev. Megan McMillan

The call of Rev. Megan McMillan as our new Associate Pastor was overwhelmingly approved at the Congregational Meeting last Sunday. She brings a lot to



our ministry team and church family. After spending Thanksgiving with her family in Columbia, SC, Megan will travel to St. Petersburg, get settled in her apartment, and explore her new community. Megan will start her ministry at our church on December 1st. To find out more about Megan and her call to First Presbyterian Church, [click HERE](#).

## Special Thanks To Roy Duttweiler

For the last three weeks several members have shared Thanksgiving memories. Today we are saying "thanks" to Roy Duttweiler, who has given his time and talents to our church.

Roy has been a member of FPC for 17 years, and for 15 of those years he has volunteered every Monday morning to be the leader of the "money counters" team, who make sure all the monies are counted and deposited. According to Blanche Ganey, " Roy knows and understands the ACS system that we use and sometimes it can be a little tricky." Roy is also the "go-to" person for the financial gifts and pledges that the church receives during the year. All of these many important jobs are part of his volunteer service to the church.

When he is not counting money, Roy takes time to travel around the world. His many trips include India, Russia, Europe, Singapore, and North Africa. His dream trip is a rail trip through Switzerland....maybe next year, Roy!

I did discover another "fun fact" about Roy....he is an excellent cook and baker, and often brings his homemade goodies to church to share.

"Well done good and faithful servant" Matthew 25:23 Thanks Roy!



DUTTWEILER, Roy



## Our Always-Generous Congregation Provides For Free Clinic Facilities

'Tis the season of giving in this time season of great need in our world and in our community. Our congregation stands out as a beacon of generosity and hope. Because of this, the FPC Mission Committee would like to share a way for you to personally donate to residents of one of St. Petersburg Free Clinic's facilities. Simply choose an item, or items, from one of the wish lists below, and your purchase will ship directly to people at the shelters. We are thankful for the extravagant generosity of our church.

**Baldwin Women's Residence** -- The Baldwin Women's Residence provides housing and services for women who are recovering from substance abuse and assists them as they cultivate healthy and independent lifestyles. Follow this link to access the wish list: [BWR Wishlist](#) then choose this shipping address:

## Other addresses

Baldwin Women's Residence; Attn: Wishlist's Gift Registry Address

**Family Residence** -- The family residence provides safe and supportive housing for homeless families. Use this link to access the wish list: [Family Wishlist](#) then choose this shipping address:

## Other addresses

**St. Petersburg Free Clinic -**

**Family Residence**

ST PETERSBURG, FL

(Full address hidden for privacy.)

 Gift Registry Address

Deliver to this address

For questions, contact Gay Wasik-Zegel at [gwzegel@gmail.com](mailto:gwzegel@gmail.com)

## We Need Volunteers To Pass The Peace, VIRTUALLY!

As we return to worship in person, the Passing of the Peace, the time where we used to stand and greet each other in the name of Christ, will be done as a video greeting.



We are asking individuals, families, or groups to record a short Passing the Peace video greeting. These videos will be played during Sunday worship for those in the Sanctuary and those watching from the couch at home.

For a sample script, contact the Church Office. If you are unable to record your own video on your phone, our online worship expert David Aumack will set up a convenient time to help you. Please contact the Church Office (727-822-2031) as soon as possible to let us know you can participate, and then send your videos to [daumack@fpc-stpete.org](mailto:daumack@fpc-stpete.org). You can also contact him with any technical questions you may have.

All of us at First Presbyterian  
are working to stay as connected  
as possible  
during this time of social  
distancing.



Stay  
CONNECTED

- If you need anything – a phone call, a prayer, a friendly conversation, or a few errands run – PLEASE call the Church Office at 727-822-2031! Our staff and volunteers are happy to help during this time.
- Help us stay connected by sending us your pictures and prayer requests!

## Healing Scripture

As part of our pastoral care ministry, we will be offering a daily scripture meditation read by Pastor Ruth. Each weekday until Christmas, the church will send out an email to all those on the *First News* email list with a link to a short YouTube video of a scripture reading from the daily lectionary. The reading will be followed by the Lord's Prayer.

Pastor Dawn invites you to join us for a time of devotion, discussion, and prayer where we connect online with God and each other as we read and discuss the sermon text that will be preached the following Sunday. All are welcome!



## MONDAY DEVOTION

For sign-in information to the Zoom call, please contact the Church Office at 727-822-2031 or click [HERE](#) to join. **PLEASE NOTE:** Zoom is now requiring a password for all meetings. If Zoom prompts you to enter a password, the password for Monday devotionals moving forward will be "prayer."



### Online Giving

During this season when we are physically apart, we are especially thankful for the generosity of all of the people who continue to financially contribute to the church.

For your convenience, there are several ways which you can give:

- (1) Give online using a credit card or bank transfer ([click here](#) for the link). For assistance using the online system, please call the Church Office or
- (2) Send a check through the U.S. mail or
- (3) Drop by the Church Office and slip an envelope through the mail slot in the front door.

Thank you for the many ways you support the work of God's church at FPC – St. Petersburg!

## FPC Calendar At A Glance

- [Click here](#) to view the full church calendar online. *Groups may not appear on the online church calendar. Please contact the Church Office if you would like to update our online calendar with your meeting.*
- [Click HERE for December Birthdays](#)

**Most groups are continuing to meet virtually (online).** If you need help navigating the Zoom conference call technology, we will be happy to help you with it so that you can join meetings and/or stay better connected. Please contact the Church Office (727-822-2031) for more information.

- Sundays, 9 AM, Faith Journey Sunday School Class. For Zoom sign-in information, contact the Church Office.
- Sundays, 10 AM, Worship Service [Online](#) and **In-Person** in the Sanctuary.
- Sundays, 11:15 AM, Contemporary Faith Sunday School Class. For Zoom sign-in information, email Lynn Kiehne ([lkiehne@gmail.com](mailto:lkiehne@gmail.com)).
- Sundays, 11:15 AM, Westminster Sunday School Class. For Zoom sign-in information, email Jim Garnett ([jim.garnett237@gmail.com](mailto:jim.garnett237@gmail.com)).
- Sundays, 4 - 5:30 PM, GriefShare Support Group. For Zoom sign-in information, contact Petra Garnett ([petra.garnett@gmail.com](mailto:petra.garnett@gmail.com)).
- Mondays, 10 AM, Online Devotional with Pastor Dawn. Click [HERE](#) to join. If you are prompted, use "prayer" as a password.
- Tuesdays, 7 PM, Weekly Meditation, virtual. For more information, contact Carlen Maddux ([cmaddux@maddux.com](mailto:cmaddux@maddux.com)).
- Fridays, 7:30 AM, Men's Bible Study, meeting in person in Room S-100.
- **Today, Nov. 27, Church Office closed for the Thanksgiving holiday**

- Tuesday, Dec. 1, Rev. Megan McMillan joins the FPC staff

## Deadline For "First News"

Items for "First News" should be submitted as early as possible with a cut-off for any Friday's "First News" being end of day the Tuesday before publication. Please submit copy which is as concise as possible. Send copy to [Mary Johnson](#) and [Amy Grossenbacher](#).

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A Stephen Ministry Congregation of the PC (USA) - Christ empowering people to care for people.

